Dip in employment in organised sector

*154. DR. A.R. KIDWAI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether new data shows that organised sector employment has dipped by 4.2 lakh in the year 2001-02;

(b) if so, whether the reduction in jobs in the year 2001-02 is larger than the combined decline in the previous three years;

(c) whether the Prime Minister has called a meeting of trade union leaders, including those of INTUC and BMS, to discuss the issues concerned with the workers; and

(d) if so, to what extent he was able to convince the union leaders that the new labour laws would be beneficial to and in the interest of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Hon'ble Prime Minister had held a meeting with the representatives of the Central Trade Unions on 18.10.2002. In the meeting, various representatives expressed their views on amendment in various labour laws, labour reforms, violation of labour laws, report of the Second National Commission on Labour, Social Security aspects, Disinvestment, unemployment problem, etc. The Prime Minister appreciated the concerns expressed by the Trade Union representatives and sought suggestions from them to tackle the problems.

Safe storage of foodgrains

†*155. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the requirements of storage of foodgrains in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether Government have drafted proposals in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The existing storage capacity available with various agencies is sufficient to meet the requirements of buffer stocks, Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other Welfare Schemes in the country.

(c) To meet the growing demand of storage capacity, the Government has announced a National Policy on handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains under which private sector participation is being encouraged for development of infrastructure for the integrated bulk handling, storage and transportation.

Unorganised sector Bill

†*156. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are giving final touches to the unorganised sector Bill;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry of Finance have raised objections to the proposed unlimited liability of Government in the fund; and

(d) if so, the manner in which Government propose to mobilise Rs. 1000 odd crores required in the next five years for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (d) The Government propose to introduce a comprehensive Bill for the unorganised sector workers. The Bill amongst other provisions also envisages to provide for certain social security measures including old age pension, accident and health insurance cover. The proposal is under active consideration of the Government.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.